

HONORING HANOVER COUNTY
SHERIFF V. STUART COOK FOR
HIS LEADERSHIP DURING THE
SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanover County Sheriff V. Stuart Cook for his outstanding leadership during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Sheriff Cook was instrumental in leading a quick and efficient response. In addition, he and his team performed a thorough investigation after the shooting that certainly aided in the capture of the suspects on October 24th and will prove vital to the incrimination of the suspects during trial. Furthermore, Sheriff Cook served as a strong voice of reason to many in the area who were terrified and anxious because of the attacks.

Sheriff Cook is an outstanding law enforcement officer who has served Hanover County, Richmond, and the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 37 years. His professionalism, commitment to his team, and dedication to duty are truly deserving of special recognition. He is a highly dedicated man who has faithfully contributed to his community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sheriff Cook.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT: TOO
LITTLE, TOO LATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to protest the "compromise" provision included in the Defense Authorization Act regarding the issue known as concurrent receipt.

As we all know, current law requires an offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation. In effect, our disabled military retirees are paying for their own disability!

Both the House and the Senate, in their versions of the Defense Authorization Act, passed significant and appropriate provisions to address this inequity. The Senate bill provided concurrent receipt for all veterans who were qualified to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation. The House bill provided it for those veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more.

Now, we come to the so-called "compromise" before us. A compromise, to me, means that you meet somewhere in the middle. This compromise does no such thing. It would set up an alternative "special pay" for only military retirees who have combat-related disabilities. These are military retirees with 20 years of service who also:

1. Have a Purple Heart and a disability rating of 10 percent or more for the condition for which they received the Purple Heart, or

2. Have another "qualifying combat-related disability" rated at least 60 percent.

I have heard that this "compromise" is being sold as a good first step. It is not a good first step. It is hardly a step at all.

During my ten years in Congress, I cannot recall more than one or two other issues besides concurrent receipt on which I have received so many letters, e-mails, and calls. The expectations of our military retirees have been raised by the House and Senate versions of this bill. It is a disservice to give so little to so few at the last minute. While these veterans with combat-related disabilities are absolutely deserving of recognition, so are the others whom we have been fighting for!

I understand that it is expensive to pass concurrent receipt. But disabled veterans did not hesitate when called to serve. They returned home with disabilities they have had to live with ever since. How can we even doubt the need to keep our promises and give them what they deserve? They earned their military retired pay. They deserve their VA disability compensation. The "compromise" that is before us today is a disgrace.

KUNTU REPERTORY THEATRE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to an important cultural resource in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Africana Studies has been presenting the works of African, African-American, and Caribbean playwrights and poets since 1974. The Theatre was founded that year by Vernell A. Lillie to showcase the works of Rob Penny, the school's playwright in residence, as well as those of other authors whose works explore the Black experience. It plays an important role in Pittsburgh by providing an important voice in the region's cultural mix. In addition, the Kuntu Repertory Theatre is the only ongoing African American theater group in Pittsburgh; consequently, it provides African American actors, writers and technicians with opportunities that might not be available elsewhere.

Over the last 28 years, the KRT has produced more than 80 plays under the direction of Dr. Lillie, who has been a faculty member in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Africana Studies since 1972. This year marks both Dr. Lillie's 70th birthday and her 30th anniversary at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to commend Professor Lillie and the members of the Kuntu Repertory Theatre for their important cultural contributions and congratulate them as they begin their 28th season of high-quality, thought-provoking plays.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
VINCE O'BRIEN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II veteran, a successful businessman and family man, a true civic leader and my friend, Mr. Vincent O'Brien of Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Vince's life has always been marked by a desire to change the world he lives in for the better. That dedication is still proven by his continued work for the city of Dyersburg.

He has served for 30 years as a member of the Dyersburg Planning Commission and has chaired the commission for 20 years. During that time, the city of Dyersburg has experienced tremendous growth, including the development of many new businesses and a shopping mall that have become vital to the economy of West Tennessee.

Vince served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and received the distinguished Flying Cross.

A few months after the war, Vince married Virginia Marr of Dyersburg, and they eventually moved to Dyersburg and established Marr Cleaners, which operated successfully for more than half a century. Virginia passed away 10 years ago. Vince still enjoys spending time with their daughters and their families, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Now, at 86 years old, Vince shows no signs of slowing down. While still continuing his work for Dyersburg, he splits his time between Dyersburg and Caruthersville, Missouri, home to his wife Dorothy.

Vince O'Brien is an example for us all. He has always lived a life of compassion, involvement and service. His accomplished leadership has been vital to our community, and I am proud to call Vince O'Brien my friend.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF OHIO
SENATOR RICHARD H. FINAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Senator Dick Finan, a dear friend and leader in my home state of Ohio. Because of term limits, Dick will be completing his final term in the Ohio Senate this year.

Dick is a Cincinnati native. He graduated from the University of Dayton with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1954, and he earned his law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1959. From 1954 to 1956, Dick served our country in the U.S. Army. Last year, he was appointed as Ohio's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

Dick has been an outstanding public servant to the Cincinnati community and the people of Ohio. He was first elected as a Councilman of the Village of Evendale in 1963, and went on to serve as Mayor of Evendale from 1969 to 1973. He served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1973 to 1978, and, since

1978, has served in the Ohio Senate. For the past 6 years Dick has been President of the Senate.

During his 29 years in the Ohio General Assembly, Dick has been an outstanding leader. He has been involved with some very difficult issues that have faced Ohio, which include workers compensation, school funding, and crafting legislation to rescue Ohio's state-chartered savings and loan institutions. He also is primarily responsible for the renovation of Ohio's historic Statehouse, which restored the Capitol to its 1861 magnificence.

Throughout his service, Dick has always stood firm on his principles, and he's earned the respect of Ohioans everywhere. His retirement from the Ohio Senate is a great loss to our state and the Cincinnati area, but I know he will continue to serve our local community, the State of Ohio and our country. I look forward to continuing to work with him.

Although he will greatly miss his public service in the Ohio Senate, Dick is looking forward to having more time with his family. He and his wife, Joan, have been married for over 40 years and have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Dick's outstanding service. All of us in Southwestern Ohio are grateful for his many contributions to our community, and we wish him the very best as he steps down from the Ohio Senate.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, for the past year, Congress has debated legislation to establish a Department of Homeland Security. This has been an extremely important debate considering that any legislation we pass in this regard will result in the largest federal government reorganization since World War II. Yet, despite this fact, we are not only on the verge of passing flawed legislation, but in what seems to have become the norm for any vitally important legislation before us in the House, we are on the verge of passing it with little opportunity for deliberation, and no opportunity to amend it.

Several of my colleagues have come to the floor to highlight provisions that have been inserted into this legislation at the last minute. I share many of their concerns. It is unfortunate that we are not allowed an opportunity to offer amendments to a piece of legislation with such far-reaching implications for government reorganization, and more importantly, for the safety of our country.

In addition to the process, however, I have several concerns regarding the substance of the legislation. While I firmly support the President in the war against terror, I strongly believe that it must be achieved by striking a proper balance between cracking down on terrorists while simultaneously preserving many of the liberties and freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the United States.

In securing our borders and preserving our way of life, it is imperative that we protect civil liberties, oppose efforts to gratuitously protect

irresponsible corporations including those that incorporate offshore to avoid paying their fair share of the war on terrorism and those who knowingly make faulty products, and ensure that the new department will have the best possible workforce, while maintaining civil service protections. The majority has also slipped into this bill a provision to protect the pharmaceutical industry. The majority also has extended the deadline for our airports to have their security standards at the highest levels.

In these and many other areas, H.R. 5417 falls short. As a result, I will reluctantly vote against this bill. I still believe we can and must create an effective Department of Homeland Security that simultaneously protects us at home, protects workers, and protects our basic freedoms and civil liberties.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546, BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, which contains an important provision I offered for the expansion of Civil Support Teams nationwide.

Civil Support Teams are National Guard units designed to provide support to civil authorities in response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) threats or attacks. The teams are expertly trained to provide a variety of services including coordination of rescue and recovery efforts, securing communications, and providing medical supplies. The teams are outfitted with the proper protective equipment for entering a contaminated site. These highly-skilled units, made up of 22 full-time National Guard members, are a critical part of the Department of Defense's (DOD's) mix of local, state and federal resources for the Homeland Security plan.

Yet, currently a number of states, including Connecticut, do not have a Civil Support Team. At present, there are only two teams assigned to the entire Tri-State/Southern New England area. Those two teams are located in Natick, Massachusetts and Scotia, New York, which leaves Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey without teams.

The National Defense Authorization for FY 2003 rectifies this by authorizing 23 additional teams, one for each state and territory in the United States. This initiative has been a concern of mine since well before the tragic events of September 11, 2001. On January 10, 2000, I sent a letter to the Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army, urging that a team be deployed in Connecticut. I followed up that letter with a series of actions in support of expanding Civil Support Teams nationwide. I worked with the Connecticut Air/Army National Guard, the National Guard Bureau and the National Guard Association of the United States to address this issue of homeland security. On October 4, 2001, I sent a letter to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Department of Defense, to ask his support for establishing additional

Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

The language in the bill before us is derived from legislation I introduced (H.R. 3154) on October 17, 2001, which attracted 49 cosponsors. On November 14, 2001, in response to these efforts Ellen Embry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Assistance to Civilian Authorities briefed a small number of fellow Democratic Committee members of the House Armed Services Committee. At that meeting I reiterated my view that there should be at least one WMD-CST in every state and U.S. territory. On February 6, 2002, I again raised this issue with Secretary Rumsfeld when he testified before the House Armed Services Committee.

During the House Armed Services Committee's consideration of the FY 2003 Defense Authorization measure (H.R. 4546), my colleague, Congressman TAYLOR of Mississippi, and I successfully offered the amendment, based on my legislation (H.R. 3154), to include the provision for the additional Civil Support Teams.

Currently there are thirty-two Civil Support Teams across the country, authorized by Congress over the last three years. While 32 teams was a good start, it doesn't go far enough. H.R. 4546 will increase (from 32 to 55) the total number of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CSTs)—including a team for Connecticut.

My legislation (H.R. 3154) requires the Department of Defense to establish at least one team per state and territory. Federal emergency resources need to be properly and fully integrated with state and local emergency response operations. To do that, we need a team in each state. Establishing a team in every state ensures a quick response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction attack, and allows the Civil Support Teams to run practice scenarios with local and state authorities that would be involved in the event of a real attack. This will ensure high-quality coordination among all those involved.

A Connecticut-based Civil Support Team is vital to residents of Connecticut and the Northeast Corridor. The terrorist attacks of September 11th in New York City made this point clear, and necessitate addressing this regional national security concern as soon as possible. The Civil Support Team in New York helped assess the initial terrorist incident at the World Trade Center, and undertook chemical, biological and radiological sampling at Ground Zero. The team also provided a full range of communications support as well as air monitoring services. The attack in New York was a critical test for this Civil Support Team, and it proved to provide significant assistance to local and state authorities. Connecticut deserves to be equally well protected and prepared. I am delighted that my legislation to advance that goal has been incorporated in the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2003.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, and for the other strong national defense provisions authorized within, I strongly urge the House to vote in support of H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2003.